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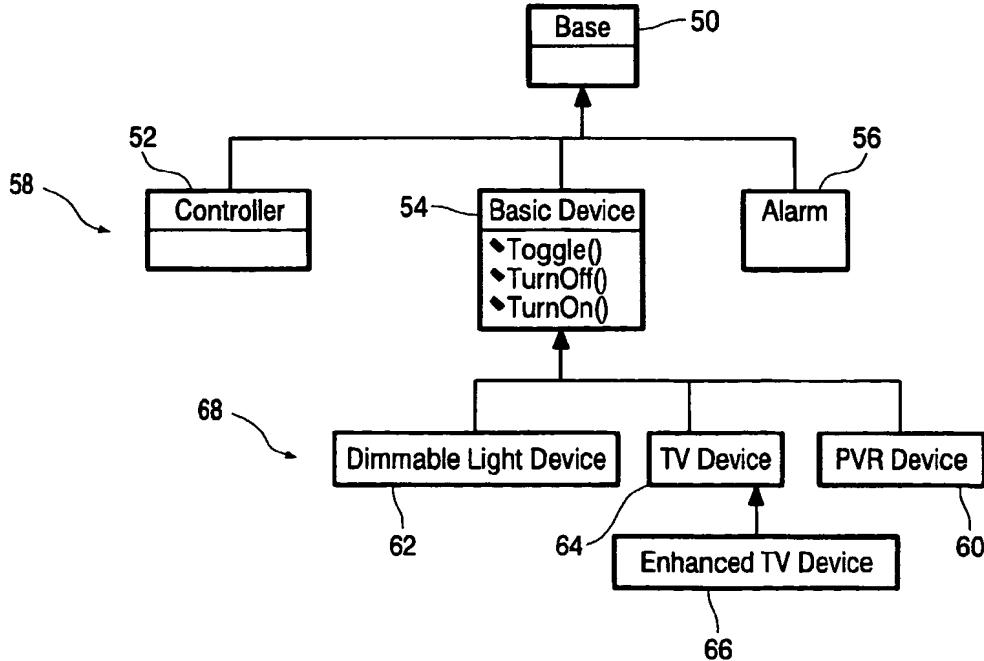
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(54) Title: A NETWORK ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL



(57) **Abstract:** The invention relates to a protocol for communications between networked devices. The devices are logically arranged as a hierarchy of device types including a controller device type (52) from which no other device type depends and a basic device type (54) from which a number of other device types depend. The devices implement a simple device description message of fixed length and format which includes the device type, and some devices further implement an extended device description message including additional information.